
MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

OF THE

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1st, 1898,

IN THE

BOROUGH OF STALYBRIDGE

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT OF THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1st, 1898.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough
of Stalybridge, being the Urban Sanitary Authority
of the said Borough.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my twenty-fourth annual report, which I commence with the usual formal record of the births and deaths for the last twelve months.

During the year ended January 1st, 1898, the number of births registered in the Borough was 812 ; of these 415 were males and 397 females. The deaths registered during the same period numbered 606 ; of these 309 were males and 297 females. The birth rate for the year was 28·6, and the death rate 21·4 per 1000 persons living.

One hundred and one deaths were recorded from the seven principal zymotic diseases which give a zymotic death rate of 3·5 per 1000 persons living for the past twelve months.

The death rate as regards the chief zymotic diseases is exceptionally high. This is due to the mortality from measles. The number of deaths from measles was 30 for the quarter ending October 2nd, 1897, when the zymotic death rate was 8·2 per 1000 persons living.

The Borough of Stalybridge is divided into four wards and the following was the death rate in each ward, viz. :—

Lancashire Ward.....	17·3
Staley Ward	22·0
Dukinfield Ward	19·5
Millbrook Ward	18·0

Thirty-four deaths occurred in the Workhouse, Ashton-under-Lyne, of persons removed there from the Borough, and 11 deaths in the Infirmary, which I have included in my general death rate.

The deaths of children under one year of age to 1000 births registered were for the year 184.

No great improvement in the death rate of our manufacturing towns will take place, until some means which at present we do not seem to possess has been discovered to stop this very serious Infant mortality. The total number of deaths of children under five years of age for the year was 263, of which 113 were between one and five years of age, and 150 were under one year of age.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age to 1000 births registered in the different wards for the year 1897 is as follows, viz. :—

Lancashire Ward	164
Stayley Ward.....	220
Dukinfield Ward	173
Millbrook Ward.....	129

The population of the Borough is based on the census taken in 1891, with the increase of births over deaths added to it, and brought down to the end of the year, and the population now stands as follows, viz. :—

Lancashire Ward	6236
Stayley Ward	10611
Dukinfield Ward.....	8287
Millbrook Ward	3161
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Total	28295

I now give a detailed account of the Sanitary work of the Borough during the past year, viz. :—

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

In July, 1891, the Council at their meeting adopted the Infectious (Notification) Act, 1891, and the Infectious disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. The working of the Infectious Disease compulsory Notification Act has given serviceable direction to much of the work of general inspection of the Borough. All premises specified in notifications of Infectious disease are at once visited both by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances, and many minor sanitary defects are thus discovered and remedied.

It cannot be said that the working of this Act is in every respect satisfactory, especially as in this Borough we have no Infectious Hospital to remove the cases notified to. The point of view of the notifier and of the notified is not the same. The notifying Surgeon seeks naturally to obtain the utmost value for the information he is able to communicate. But the value to him is not the measure of the value to the authority, for under the existing law the authority is called upon to pay for renewed notifications long after the commencement of an outbreak, when their practical value is of no use, and their multiplication becomes a useless incumbrance. During the past twelve months we have in many instances received four notifications of the same disease in the same house, and in two cases six notifications. I do think that some alteration in the law is required, and the Sanitary Authority of this Borough have supported a petition presented to them with this object in view.

A few facts now relating to these diseases are now appended.

Small Pox—I again congratulate the Committee on the fact that no case was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever—One hundred and seventy seven cases were notified and 18 deaths occurred.

Diphtheria—To this dreadful disease as it used to be called 3 deaths are referred, and 13 cases were notified to the Authority. When Diphtheria was first introduced into this country in 1856, it was terribly contagious and fatal, and associated with the insanitary conditions which had uncontrolled sway at the time. The Diphtheria of those days cannot recur, except in some neglected places where the old abominations have been allowed to remain. In Stalybridge with its pure water, its airy streets and active Sanitary department it is impossible.

In none of the cases visited after notification there have been no marked insanitary conditions and no history of contagion. The patients have been mostly children (more likely to suffer from Croup, as we were taught, than from Diphtheria), and I never heard of any case where there was a great amount of new tissue in the throat, which must necessarily form in order to replace the mucous membrane which sloughs away in genuine diphtheria.

Membranous Croup—Three cases were notified and 2 deaths occurred.

Whooping Cough—Though not included in the above named Acts caused 12 deaths.

Typhoid Fever—During the year 36 cases were notified but only three deaths occurred, and on enquiring into the cases I could find nothing special to comment on.

The Corporation Sewerage Scheme is still incomplete though the work has been progressing all through the year, and I am informed that the whole scheme will certainly be completed during the forthcoming year. When the work is complete the health of the Borough ought to be improved, as the River which has been very little better than an open sewer, runs through the centre of the Borough.

Measles—Although this is not one of the diseases specified, forty three deaths occurred.

Infectious Diseases included in the Infectious (Notification) Act, 1889, notified during the year 1897, and the number of deaths from same.

	Number of cases.	Deaths from same.
Scarlatina	177	18
Diphtheria	13	3
Membranous Croup	3	2
Typhoid Fever	36	3
Puerperal Fever.....	1	0
Erysipelas	23	1
	<hr/> 253	<hr/> 27

During the year I have visited my district with the Inspector of Nuisances, and on many occasions we have been accompanied by the chairman (Alderman Simpson); vice-chairman (Dr. Hancock) and other members of the Committee. I attend all meetings of the Sanitary Committee, and advise them on all matters relating to the health of the Borough.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875—The Chief Constable, Mr. Chadwick, forwarded to the Borough Analyst, (Mr. J. Carter Bell), the following articles to be analyzed:—two samples of coffee, two samples of pepper, two samples of lard, one sample of butter, one sample of gin, one sample of whiskey and one sample of milk, all of which were pure.

The following properties have been put into a thorough sanitary condition during the year, under the superintendence of Mr. White, the Borough Surveyor, viz.:—

<i>Name of Owner.</i>	<i>Situation of Property</i>
Mayors, &c., of Stalybridge and Ashton	The Park
John Heginbotham	Lindsey street
Robert White.....	Cocker Hill
N. Maude	Spindle Point
James Carter	Stamford Lodge
John Heginbotham	Bennett Street
George McLelland	Bayley's Yard
David Cross.....	Forester Street
Mrs. Lathom	Off Stamford Street
J. Swanwick	Back Harrop Street

Lodging Houses—I have many times during the year visited all the registered lodging houses within the Borough, and found them in a fairly sanitary condition.

Water Supply—The water supplied to the Borough is absolutely pure, and abundant in quantity.

With regard to the sanitary state of the Borough during the year, I beg to append to my report the following statement furnished by Mr. Oliver, the Inspector of Nuisances, viz. :—

YEAR 1897

Number of public schools fumigated	2
Number of general nuisances abated during the year....	473
Number of houses fumigated	158
Number of smoke observations taken	69
Number of notices served.....	13

I beg to give a return of the number of ashpits emptied and loads removed during 1897, viz. :—

	Ashpits	Loads,
January	647	618 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	711	673
March.....	761	848 $\frac{1}{2}$
April	654	655
May	727	672
June	794	769 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	762	582 $\frac{1}{2}$
August	990	849 $\frac{1}{2}$
September.....	883	690 $\frac{1}{2}$
October.....	929	685 $\frac{1}{2}$
November.....	1257	764
December .. .	928	553
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10043	8361 $\frac{1}{2}$

The following table will show the number of deaths in each year from the seven chief zymotic diseases, as well as the various Death-rates for the past ten years:—

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Smallpox	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	41	4	27	1	25	3	49	5	43
Scarlet fever.....	8	9	8	25	5	4	0	2	22	18
Diphtheria	0	5	6	4	0	8	3	5	5	3
Whooping Cough	9	4	25	6	19	17	23	13	23	12
Fevers of a con- tinned character { Typhus... Enteric...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doanbtful	6	3	7	2	2	4	2	10	3	3
Diarrhoea and dysentery....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18	18	18	14	24	50	12	33	8	22
Deaths from the 7 chief zymotic diseases	44	81	68	78	51	108	43	112	66	101
Deaths from other causes ..	523	573	584	558	533	574	466	553	506	505
Totals for each year due to the Borough	567	654	652	636	584	682	509	665	572	606
Death-rate from the 7 zymotic diseases per 1000 }	1.5	2.8	2.3	2.8	1.8	4.0	1.5	4.0	2.3	3.5
Death-rate from all other causes per 1000..... }	18.7	20.4	20.6	20.8	19.7	21.0	16.9	19.9	18.0	17.9
General death-rate per 1000	20.2	23.2	22.9	23.6	21.5	25.0	18.4	23.9	20.3	21.4

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NUMBER OF DEATHS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1st, 1898.

Causes of Death.

Small Pox	}	With marks of vaccination	0
		Without marks	0
		Where not known, or doubtful	0
Measles			43
Scarlet Fever			18
Diphtheria			3
Membranous Croup			2
Whooping Cough			12
Fevers	}	Typhus	0
		Enteric	3
		Of others, or doubtful sorts	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery			22
Cholera			0
Rheumatic Fever			6
Erysipelas			1
Pyæmia			0
Puerperal Fever			0
Phthisis ..			43
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy			126
Heart Disease			38
Inquests			25
Other Diseases not classified			264
			<hr/>
			606

Ages at which Death occurred.

Under 1 year of age	150
Between 1 and 5 years of age	113
„ 5 and 15 „ 	27
„ 15 and 25 „ 	22
„ 25 and 60 „ 	152
60 and upwards	142
	<hr/>
	606

Deaths.

Male.....	309
Female.....	297
	<hr/>
	606

Births.

Male.....	415
Female.....	397
	<hr/>
	812

Estimated Population, 28,295;

Annual Death Rate for every thousand persons living.	
for the year ending January 1st, 1898.....	21.4
Corresponding time for 1896.....	20.3
" " 1895.....	23.9
" " 1894.....	18.4
" " 1893.....	25.0
" " 1892.....	21.5
" " 1891.....	23.6

Deaths in Different Wards.

	<i>Under 5 years of age.</i>	<i>Over 5 years of age.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Lancashire.....	49	59	108
Staley.....	109	125	234
Dukinfield.....	76	86	162
Millbrook.....	25	32	57
Workhouse and Infirmary....	4	41	45
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	263	343	606

I beg to thank your Committee for the kindness and courtesy I have at all times received at your hands, and have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. ROBERTS-DUDLEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER.

Envile House.

Stalybridge,

January, 1898.

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Stalybridge, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Deaths—	WARDS								Totals
	Lancashire	Stalybridge	Dukinfield	Millbrook	Workhouse	Infirmary			
at all ages	108	234	162	57	34	11	..	606	
under 1 year	33	64	41	11	0	1	..	150	
1 and under 5 years..	16	45	35	14	1	2	..	113	
5 and under 15 years..	4	10	6	4	0	3	..	27	
15 and under 25 years..	5	6	8	2	0	1	..	22	
25 and under 65 years..	23	59	39	17	12	2	..	152	
65 and upwards	27	50	33	9	21	2	..	142	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	WARDS												Totals.
	Lancashire.	Stayley.	Dukinfield.	Millbrook.	Workhouse.	Infirmary.	Under	Over	Under	Over	Under	Over	
	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	5 yrs.	
Small Pox	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	3..	1	2	4	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	13..	5
Diphtheria	0..	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3..	0
Membranous Croup	0..	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1..	1
Typhus Fever	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0..	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	3
Continued Fever	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Relapsing Fever	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Pureperal Fever	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Cholera	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Erysipelas	0..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0..	1
Measles	6..	0	25	0	7	0	4	0	1	0	0	43..	0
Whooping Cough	1..	0	3	0	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	11..	1
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	4..	0	8	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	19..	3
Rheumatic Fever	0..	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0..	6
Ague	0..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0..	0
Phthisis	0..	9	0	19	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	0..	43
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	12..	13	22	28	15	21	5	3	0	5	0	54..	72
Heart Disease	0..	4	0	15	0	11	0	5	0	1	0	0..	38
Injuries	0..	2	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	2..	10
All other Diseases....	23..	28	47	52	35	43	9	13	0	22	3	117..	160
Total	49..	59	109	125	76	86	25	32	1	33	3	263..	343

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS .

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health
during the year 1897, in the Stalybridge Urban Sanitary
District ; classified according to Diseases,
Ages, and localities.

	WARDS				
	Lancashire	Stayley	Dukinfield	Millbrook	Total
Census in 1891.....	5873	..10117	.. 7831	.. 2950	..26771
Estimated to middle of 1897	6236	..10611	.. 8287	.. 3161	..28295
Registered Births....	201	.. 290	.. 236	.. 85	.. 812

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality.

	WARDS									
	Lancashire		Stayley		Dukinfield		Millbrook		Totals	
	Under 5 yrs	Up 5 yrs	Under 5 yrs	Up 5 yrs	Under 5 yrs	Up 5 yrs	Under 5 yrs	Up 5 yrs	Under 5 yrs	Up 5 yrs
Smallpox	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0..	0..	0..	0
Scarlatina.....	10..	14..	39..	55..	16..	12..	15..	16..	80..	97
Diphtheria	2..	3..	4..	1..	0..	0..	0..	3..	6..	7
Membraneous										
Croup	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	3..	0
Typhus	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0
Enteric or										
Typhoid	0..	5..	1..	11..	1..	18..	0..	0..	2..	34
Continued	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0..	0..	0
Relapsing	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0
Puerperal	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1
Cholera	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0
Erysipelas.....	0..	6..	0..	9..	0..	7..	0..	1..	0..	23

The following are the Monthly means of the Meteorological Observations taken at Stalybridge during the year ending December 31st, 1897.

DATE.	Hygrometer.		Temperatures				Distance travelled by Wind in 24 hours	Rainfall 12 inches above ground
	Dry	Wet	Maximum in Shade.	Minimum in Shade	Temp. 1 ft. deep.	Temp. 4 ft. deep		
1897.								
January	33	32	38	29	30	37	..	1.78
February	40	39	45	37	35	37	..	2.66
March	41	40	48	38	35	39	..	2.32
April	43	41	50	38	35	40	..	2.83
May	48	43	57	41	40	43	..	2.18
June	58	57	66	51	49	49	..	3.57
July	60	59	69	53	44	52	..	1.81
August	61	59	69	54	31	55	..	3.84
September	52	51	60	46	26	50	..	4.35
October	49	48	57	45	38	47	..	2.05
November	45	45	50	41	29	44	..	4.91
December	39	39	45	36	19	39	..	4.15
								36.45

$$2 \text{ } \overline{) 295} \quad 263.000 \quad (9.2$$

$$\underline{254655}$$

$$83450$$

$$56590$$

$$\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$26860$$

$$\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

Death rate 21.4

Immigrant rate 3.5

Death rate under

5 years of age 9.2

$$\underline{12.4}$$

$$12.4$$

$$\underline{\underline{9.0}}$$

